Pollution by Industrial Units

1410. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the action taken to ensure that industrial units do not pullute water, air, etc. to save loss to crops and human life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): The action taken for control of pollution from industrial units include the following:

1. The Government have formulated a Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution.
2. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 provide the legal framework for enforcing pollution control measures.
3. A comprehensive enforcement structure comprising of central and state government agencies is in place, including the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards/ Committees.
4. Ambient air and water quality standards including emission and effluent discharge standards have been notified.
5. Environmental clearance has been made mandatory for 29 categories of developmental projects, including public hearing and environmental impact assessment process.
6. Seventeen categories of highly polluting industries are being rigorously monitored for compliance of the stipulated standards.
7. Common Effluent Treatment Plants are being set up for industrial units located in the different industrial estates in the country.
8. Twenty-four critically polluted areas have been identified for pollution abatement and improving the environment. Action Plans in respect of twenty-two critically polluting areas have been finalized and are at various stages of implementation.
9. Ganga Action Plan and National River Conservation Plan are under implementation to improve the river water quality. These plans envisage interception and diversion of municipal sewage and industrial effluents from being discharged into twenty-two rivers covering one hundred and fifty-six towns in fourteen States.
10. A number of Waste Minimisation Circles have been established for control of Pollution at source for certain highly polluting industries, such as electroplating units, textile dyes and printing units, tanneries and agro-based paper units.
11. Environmental Audit has been made compulsory for certain categories of industrial units.
12. The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authroity has been set up for the National Capital Region for protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution. Similarly, an authority has been set up for controlling industrial pollution in the state of Tamil Nadu.
13. The Ministry has initiated environmental epidmiological studies in seven critically polluted areas located in Gujarat, Orissa, Mumbai, Kerala, U.P., Punjab and Delhi.
14. Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.